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"Making a positive difference in the lives of young children"

Commission Meeting

October 26, 2004 @ 3:00 p.m.

First Steps Center (School Readiness Site)

Los Molinos Elementary School Campus, 7700 Stanford Avenue, Los Molinos

MINUTES

Attendance: Bob Douglas, Jeannie Jacobs, Valerie Lucero, Mildred Johnstone, and George Russell.

Absent: Paula Brown-Almond, Christine C. Applegate, Bill Clybourn, and Connie Massie.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT: None heard

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1. INFORMATIONAL: Director's Report – Director Snider is absent due to illness, Commissioner Chairperson, Mildred Johnstone reported the Director's Report.

- The release of the Emerging Issues Grant will be delayed until further notice.
- All action items previously scheduled for today's meeting were tabled. This meeting was held at the request of Chairperson Mildred Johnstone, so that continuity of project status reports and Commission information is ongoing.
- Annual Report and Audit and School Readiness report were submitted to the state on schedule; the Childcare Retention Incentive report was submitted on schedule. Upon completion of the Executive Summary, the Annual Report and Audit will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. There has been a delay in this process due to the medical leave of Director Snider.
- Grantee Cluster Meeting and Kit for New and Expectant Parents training is scheduled for October 28, 2004. The morning session will be training on the Kit for New & Expectant Parents with Commission Secretary, Rhonda Meadows and SECH Parent Facilitator, Elsa Bautista leading the discussion. Consultant Lois Lang will be facilitating the afternoon session with technical assistance in Program Sustainability & Developing Business Partnerships. Networking and sharing will be during the lunch hour with Michelle Kinner opening with the A Place of Our Own and the Spanish-language companion, Los Niños en Su Casa, daily talk shows on KIXE public television, devoted to the needs of caregivers of pre-Kindergarten aged children; sponsored in part by First 5 California, First 5 LA.

- **Reminder:** The Financial Committee is scheduled to meet at the Commission office on November 17 @ 8:00 a.m. Commission committee members Christine Applegate, Bob Douglas and Valerie Lucero will review the quarterly budget report and program fiscal operations.
- Commissioner Jeannie Jacobs included how important and good it is that we have developed the high level, day to day, working procedures at the Commission Office – especially during this difficult time with the director’s health. Lois Lang has agreed to fill in where needed and is available to do program and contract oversight. Carol Stephens, assistant to Bob Douglas at the TCDOE, has always been supervision support for the Commission Secretary position and will continue to be a resource and oversight person for Rhonda during this time.

• ***Please mark your calendars: Next month’s meeting will be on November 30, 2004, it will not be on the usual 4th Tuesday.***

2.2. INFORMATIONAL: Appoint Ad-Hoc Membership Committee

The Commission Chairperson appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee from the required commission membership members to review letters of interest and make a recommendation to the full membership. Commissioners Bob Douglas, Valerie Lucero, and George Russell will organize their schedules to meet the Membership Committee’s timeline.

2.3. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Review Action Planning Document

- Mapping of Action Plan – Action items, responsible person, completion dates, and status were reviewed, discussed, and prioritized.
- Goal 2: Increase capacity of non-profit orgs
 - Action Plan Item 2.2 Training Strategy: Chairperson Mildred Johnstone appointed a taskforce to review this strategy – Commissioner Jeannie Jacobs will chair this committee, Commissioners Paula Brown-Almond and Christine C. Applegate to collaborate.
- Goal 3: Increase all partnerships – Commissioner Johnstone appointed Commissioners Bob Douglas, George Russell, and Valerie Lucero to increase all partnerships and define their plans for Goal 3; this group will make regular reports to the full Commission. Two positions are coming up for renewal and will be reviewed; Commissioner Douglas will check with Commissioner Bill Clybourn regarding continued membership interest.
- Goal 9: Children will have Positive Dental Outcomes
 - Action Plan Item 9.2: Chairperson Johnstone appointed committee to address barriers to dental service provision including outreach and education – this group included herself and Commissioners Connie Massie and Bill Clybourn.

2.4. INFORMATIONAL: Project Updates

GRANTEE **Child Care Referral and Education**

Project Name..... Informal Caregiver Home Visiting and Training Program

Grant Type Direct Services

Funding Cycle October 1, 2002 – September 30, 2005

Project Coordinator Michelle Kinner

Grant Award \$240,000.00

Project Description: Provides outreach, support and training activities for license-exempt child care providers and potential Spanish-speaking providers through home visits, workshops, technical assistance, media, and community presentations. Project staff work to increase parents, providers, and community knowledge of the benefits of quality child care, childhood development, and healthy and safe home environments with an emphasis on school readiness.

Michelle Kinner, Project Coordinator of the Informal Caregiver Home Visiting and Training program highlighted her project and reported that 50% of all families are choosing the informal child care program model. Michelle brought a Home Visiting bag to share with the group; this is the type of outreach service delivery being offered through her program. Providers receive crayons, art supplies, puppets, first aid kit, safety items, puzzle, play dough, a book, and a binder of resource information with this HV bag. Bags are tailored to match the age of the children served. The bag also offers a white board and dry erase pins for hours of fun.

Stats at a Glance: 18 Home Visits = 6 in Red Bluff, 7 in Corning, and 5 outlying areas

- Is making conscience effort to outreach to areas outside of Red Bluff
- Play Dates – 5 activities with 2 in Corning = 71 Children in All (4th Thurs/mo @ 10 a.m.)
 - Jennifer Shortt, School Readiness Coordinator and Michelle collaborated during the meeting and may have a way to bring CCRE Play Dates to the SR sites once a month!!!
- Commissioner Bob Douglas suggested that CCRE link their literacy program together with Commissioner Paula Brown-Almond's "California Early Reading First" program so that there is a commonality once the children enter school. Michelle will contact Commissioner Paula Brown-Almond with the suggestion.

GRANTEE: **Los Molinos Unified School District**
Project Name:..... First Steps Center
Grant Type: Direct Services Grant
Funding Cycle: September 8, 2003 through November 30, 2007
Project Coordinator: Jennifer Shortt
Grant Amount Award: \$416,000

Project Description: Improving the ability of families, schools, and communities to prepare children to enter school ready in the Los Molinos Unified School District.

Project Status: School Readiness Coordinator, Jennifer Shortt, gave an update to the Commission. Introducing Sandra Weekly, Bilingual Family Liaison to the Commission. Jennifer described the busy quarter Sandra and she have had transporting parents to various programs including preschool; workshops; ESL with on-site child care, etc. As reported in local papers, Kindercamp was an extreme success not only with both with parents and children, but with teachers who know the importance of having a structured preschool type of experience prior to Kindergarten. Jennifer reported that she is participating in the formation of the Tehama County Family Resource Network, and they currently have Cal Foundation coming to visit to see if this model of networking collaborative partners is something they would like to invest in. Jennifer will report on the outcome at the January meeting on this Sustainability project.

Commissioner Jeannie Jacobs asked if any 0-5 parents had been asked or added to the Site Council. Jennifer will check into this and report back to the Commission.

2.5. INFORMATIONAL: Commissioner Updates

- Commissioner Bob Douglas: Jack O'Connell from the State Superintendent's office has reported that council sponsored meeting in Oregon focused on Universal Preschool across the country. O'Connell's office has asked Commissioner Douglas to represent California and meet with other representatives in Child Development from Public Policy standpoint of what Universal Preschool would look like. There is no question that Universal Preschool is on the horizon – models are immersing.

2.6. ADJOURNED

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for the 5th Tuesday, November 30, 2004.

Communications received by the FIRST 5 TEHAMA, Tehama County Children and Families Commission and Commissioner Information Packets are on file at the Office of the Program Director, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff.

If you need disability modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Commission office at (530) 528-1395 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Government code Section 54954.2(a).

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